



## Maine Farmer.

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.  
B. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.  
Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

### A Few Hours at Waushakum Farm.

In the Library.

A rainy, cold, and cheerless forenoon was most pleasantly spent in the large library of Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant at Waushakum Farm, South Falmouth, Mass., the last week in April. We have taken an early train from Boston to purpose to visit this farm and examine the choice herd of Ayrshire cattle which the Sturtevant Brothers have built up, and which is among the foremost herds of this breed in the country—but the pelting rain and snow, and the rough chilling wind made it disagreeable to be out doors, and it was indeed gratifying to change these for the quiet of the library, the companionship of choice books and pleasant conversation. A grand room was there, the choice herd of Ayrshire cattle which the Sturtevant Brothers have built up, and which is among the foremost herds of this breed in the country—but the pelting rain and snow, and the rough chilling wind made it disagreeable to be out doors, and it was indeed gratifying to change these for the quiet of the library, the companionship of choice books and pleasant conversation. A grand room was there, the choice herd of Ayrshire cattle which the Sturtevant Brothers have built up, and which is among the foremost herds of this breed in the country—but the pelting rain and snow, and the rough chilling wind made it disagreeable to be out doors, and it was indeed gratifying to change these for the quiet of the library, the companionship of choice books and pleasant conversation.

grown—no grain or root crops being cultivated. There are two dwellings upon the estate, together with the barns, stables and a small conservatory and grapevines. The brothers Sturtevant are all young men who work upon their farm with their own hands, and who give their business personal attention. They are men who believe in brains in farming, and who make science go hand in hand with practice in all their operations. Mr. T. L. Sturtevant is the business manager of the estate; Mr. J. N. Sturtevant—better known to our readers as "Zeloc"—is the direct management of the herd, and Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant is the literary and scientific member of the firm.

### Agassiz Memorial Fund.

We believe the MAINE FARMER is the first public journal to express the idea that the Museums of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, should be named after its founder—the AGASSIZ MUSEUM, and that it should be liberally endowed by the gifts of gentlemen of public spirited generosity, in order that the mission which its founder designed it to accomplish, should not fail through his decease. In our issue of Dec. 27th, 1873, we used the following language in a brief article on the death of Agassiz, in reference to the above plan: "It was so roomy as to afford ample space for book shelves, cabinet, writing tables; and to add these to the chairs and lounge;—so that if the inclination to work was not strong, the helps to personal rest would invite to their occupancy. There were pictures and curiosities, prize badges and models of high honor—prize laurels won in honorable competition—which the interested visitor could examine for hours; but the fall library was of course the chief attraction of the room. There were perhaps three thousand volumes, not selected for their rarity, although many were rare, nor obtained simply to make a collection, although the library formed one of the best and most perfect collections of agriculture and the allied sciences we have ever seen together—a collection for use, as a means to be used—a real working library; one to be consulted upon any subject the entire range of rural economy, and consulted with the surety of yielding the desired information. Its condition gave evidence that it was well used; there were no glazed doors, no locks and keys—and the vast MS. volumes of notes, memoranda and data upon many important subjects, but chiefly upon the races of cattle, milk, the principles of breeding and kindred topics, as the labor of Dr. Lewis Sturtevant—who is well known to readers of the FARMER and other leading agricultural journals as a learned writer upon these subjects—gave ample evidence that the books are in constant use, and under the hands of a skilled workman are giving up their isolated seats upon different subjects to be massed and arranged in the most effective manner for coming students. These large MS. volumes are all indexed, so that any information on any given subject may be turned to in a moment where the entire information of the library upon that point is condensed and arranged, with complete references to fuller information; forming in fact, an encyclopaedia of modern agriculture. In addition to this labor, and the preparation of his numerous lectures and published articles, many of which involve minute and quite extended investigations of a delicate nature, being largely microscopic—a twelve hundred dollar microscope with its accessories being among the appointments of the library.—Dr. Sturtevant has also in MS. an elaborate treatise on the Ayrshire cow, and is at work upon a complete Agricultural Bibliography of all books in the English language which when completed will form a most important work. He is thoroughly educated, has an honorable war record, and having now turned his energies in the field of agricultural literature, we may justly expect much good work from in the future. It is certainly fortunate for American agriculture that it can invite to its service the aid of such educated men as Dr. Sturtevant—who, possessing the requisite taste and talents, and aiding to some extent the work which these gentlemen have undertaken. Already about one third of the required sum has been pledged, and we trust the grand project may be well considered by the trustees of the several agricultural societies.

### The Appointment of Judges.

If any reform in the matter of judges for our leading agricultural exhibitions is to be inaugurated during the present season, the plan proposed should be well considered now that the several societies are about making up their premium lists and programmes for the fall exhibitions. We understand that the New York State Agricultural Society—the leading society of its kind in the United States, and one more nearly approaching the Royal Agricultural Society of England, than any we have—has for several years carried out the plan of hiring expert judges in the several leading classes of their exhibitions, and the plan has so far worked admirably and is not likely to be abandoned for the old method. In the live stock department two gentlemen make a committee who give their decisions independent of each other, and if they fall to a single instance in being unanimous upon any animal, a third party is called upon to decide between the two animals, about which there is a divided judgment. We have been told by well informed gentlemen that this does not often occur, but it is said that if there is a tie, the butcher is invariably the part lost; and the Hon. T. S. Goldsmith, of the Board of Agriculture, with a good number of his colleagues in the same class, have voted that if there is a tie, the butcher will retard it if does not prevent the value of this thing, this is to say:

*"The Judge of the class of cattle or horses, etc., who is to be called upon to decide between the two animals, about which there is a divided judgment, shall be the part lost."*

The British Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge is an independent establishment, governed by a faculty of its own. It was founded fifteen years ago by Agassiz, and has given to its present large proportions besides its herds and collections, and is the newly established School of Economic Geology on the Island of Pequins, endowed by Mr. Andrew of New York. The system of instruction given to the students is based upon the study of the British Museum or the Gardens of Plants. To make this school successful it must be in constant use, and under the hands of a skilled workman are giving up their isolated seats upon different subjects to be massed and arranged in the most effective manner for coming students.

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### The Grass Fields.

We are at this writing—May 9th—having a genial rain, (accompanied with a cool atmosphere) the first we have had for nearly two weeks. In many places snow drifts are yet seen by fence sides—and while on a jaunt through the woods five miles from this city a few days ago in quest of early spring plants and shrubs, snow was from three inches to a foot deep on a level. The grass fields are naturally a source of much anxiety at this time, and although not looking very encouragingly and with a rather cold and dry spring thus far—we still hope for a warm, wet May, when "Old Pro" gets settled down to it, and know that with these conditions, notwithstanding the fields look rather brown and bare just now, we shall harvest a good crop of hay. However let farmers keep up good courage and be prudent in the use of their hay—it may be well to consider the several agricultural societies.

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